

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An instrument kit for performing a repair procedure on a meniscal tear in a knee for use in combination with a meniscal repair device, the instrument kit comprising:

at least one template including an elongate body defining X, Y and Z axes, the elongate body adapted for insertion in a knee of the patient to approximate a path to a meniscal tear within the knee, the elongate body having a length along the X-axis sufficient to access the meniscal tear and a reduced profile to facilitate passage thereto, a height along the Z-axis and a width along the Y-axis, the width being substantially less than the height, wherein the elongate body includes an atraumatic tip to reduce injury to tissue within the knee and wherein the atraumatic tip includes a distal end surface defining a dimple formed therein that is configured and adapted to engage a fastener in order to facilitate driving of the fastener into underlying tissue, whereby, upon subsequent removal of the one template from the knee, a correspondingly dimensioned meniscal repair device is introduced along the path to the meniscal tear for repair thereof.

Claims 2-3 (Cancelled).

4. (Original) The instrument kit according to claim 1, wherein the at least one template includes an elongate body having a distal end portion which is obliquely arranged with respect to the X-axis.

5. (Original) The instrument kit according to claim 4, wherein the distal end portion of the elongate body is offset in a direction of the Y-axis.

6. (Original) The instrument kit according to claim 4, wherein the distal end portion of the elongate body is offset in a direction of the Z-axis.

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

8. (Original) The instrument kit according to claim 1, further including a handle configured and adapted to be removably attached to a proximal end of each of the at least one template.

9. (Original) The instrument kit according to claim 1, wherein each of the at least one templates includes a handle at least one of integrally formed with or fixedly secured to a proximal end thereof.

10. (Original) The instrument kit according to claim 1, further comprising:
at least one disposable loading unit corresponding in size and shape to the at least one template, the at least one disposable loading unit including an elongate body defining X, Y and Z axes and being adapted to follow the path to the meniscal tear.

11. (Original) The instrument kit according to claim 10, including a plurality of disposable loading units, wherein a first disposable loading unit includes a substantially linear elongate body, a second disposable loading unit includes a distal end portion which is offset in a direction of the Y-axis, and a third disposable loading unit includes a distal end portion which is offset in a direction of the Z-axis.

Claims 12-20 (Cancelled).